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DECLARATION - USA PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled FOOTWEAR LACING SYSTEM; the specification of which was filed on **November 14, 2001** as Application Serial No. **09/993,296**.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above;

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56;

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below, and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

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GROUP 36Prior U.S.A. Application(s)

Application No.: 09/956,601	Filing Date: September 18, 2001	Status: Pending
Application No.: 09/388,756	Filing Date: September 2, 1999	Status: Patented
Application No.: 09/337,763	Filing Date: June 22, 1999	Status: Patented
Application No.: 08/917,056	Filing Date: August 22, 1997	Status: Patented

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole inventor: **Gary R. Hammerslag**

Inventor's signature _____

Date _____

[Signature]
January 24, 2002

Residence: **807 Amethyst Drive, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477**

Citizenship: **United States**

Post Office Address: **P.O. Box 774807, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477**

Send Correspondence To:
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP
Customer No. 20,995

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